

lays emphasis upon improving retention and suggests measures in this regard. Some of the main measures being taken are:-

- i) Provision of Central Assistance under the scheme of Operation Blackboard for improvement of physical facilities in Primary schools;
- ii) provision of Central Assistance for establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;
- iii) provision of incentives to socio-economically backward children for free uniform, free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls and provision of mid-day meals;
- iv) recruitment of women teachers in larger numbers to improve retention of girls;
- v) laying down of Minimum Levels of Learning for the primary stage and setting up a procedure for improving the teaching-learning process and making it more activity based and child centred.

[English]

Export of Sugar

1085. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of sugar has increased in the International market; and

(b) if so, the quantity of sugar permitted to be exported by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The price of sugar in the international market keeps on fluctuating.

(b) The quantity of sugar allocated for export during the last 3 sugar years (October to September) is given below:-

(Lakh tonnes)	
Year	Quantity permitted
1888-89	0.33
1989-90	0.51
1990-91	5.61

Procurement Price of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

1086. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times procurement price of wheat, rice and sugar has been increased during the last two years;

(b) the factors leading to such increase each time;

(c) whether procurement of wheat, rice and sugar in the last season had been satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Twice, Sir.

(b) The minimum support price of wheat and paddy is fixed on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account cost of cultivation, inputs and reasonable return to farmers etc. The procurement prices of levy rice are determined each year on the basis of M.S.P. of paddy, statutory taxes payable by millers/dealers, etc.

Ex-factory prices of levy sugar are fixed for each sugar year as per formula recommended by expert bodies like B.I.C.P.

(Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices) having regard to the statutory minimum sugarcane price, manufacturing cost of sugar, duties or taxes and reasonable return on the capital employed by the manufacturers of sugar.

(c) and (d). The procurement of wheat, rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and sugar during 1990-91 Rabi and Kharif marketing seasons was satisfactory.

[Translation]

Loan to Sugar Mills in Rajasthan

1087. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugarcane produced in Rajasthan is being utilised only by the Sugar mills in that State;

(b) if so, total number of sugar mills in the State and the quantity of sugarcane utilised by these mills during the last three years;

(c) whether any loan has been provided to those mills for the development and research from the Sugar Development Fund during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the amount thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are 3 installed Sugar mills in Rajasthan. The Quantity of sugarcane utilised by these mills is given below:-

<i>Season</i>	<i>No of Factories in operation</i>	<i>Quantity of cane crushed (Lakh Tonnes)</i>
1988-89	3	1.39
1989-90	2	1.06
1990-91	3	2.56

(c) and (d). No loan has been provided to these mills for development and research from the Sugar Development Fund during the last three years.

[English]

Child Welfare Schemes

1088. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare scheme launched by the Government for the benefit of the children of less than ten years of age;

(b) the number of children benefited by these schemes during each of the last three years; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to make these schemes more popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE